
VIRGINIA PROSTATE CANCER COALITION

Volume 5, Issue 2

Fighting Prostate Cancer in Virginia

July 2011

Chairman's Corner

Dick Gillespie

The Virginia Prostate Cancer Coalition co-sponsored Medical oncologist Charles Snuffy Myers' annual update of his prostate cancer research & treatment on Saturday, April 16th at Woodbridge's Westminster at Lake Ridge Continuing Care Retirement Community. Myers' talk focused on treatment options for advanced prostate disease. A DVD video on his lecture is available for \$20s (details later in this document).

The Coalition conducted its second annual Father's Day Campaign, culminating in prayers at various house of worship for prostate cancer patients and survivors. We in VPCC distributed flyers with a special Father's Day prayer.

Our advocacy is now focused on preserving the important Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program (CDMRP) administered by the Defense Department, especially its Prostate Cancer Research Program, now funded directly from congress at \$80 million for FY 2012. CDMRP programs redirected at high risk-high return research which can be further exploited by the National Institutes for Health and its National Cancer Institute. We urgently need individuals to write their congressmen and senators now to continue support for this unique DOD initiative!

We are continuing our participation in local Virginia health fairs and are now talking to both rotary and Lions club, urging all men in the audiences to get diagnosis, starting as early as their 40s.



VPCC board member on internet radio

VPCC board member, Fred Gersh, participated in the June edition of the *Frankly Speaking About Cancer* internet radio show, discussing prostate cancer. Listen at:

<http://bit.ly/ID99m6>

Dr. Snuffy Myers Speaks at VPCC Meeting

Dr. Snuffy Myers, a medical oncologist, gave his annual update on prostate cancer research and treatment to an audience, including prostate cancer survivors, in April at Lake Ridge. The VPCC co-sponsored the update with the Westminster at Lake Ridge Continuing Care Retirement Community. Dr. Myers delivered a powerful presentation on treating advanced prostate disease, new treatment options available, and advanced gene therapy.

After his update, Dr. Myers and his wife Rose, both members of the VPCC Board of Directors, remained for lunch and participated in a lively discussion with some 35 individuals for additional questions and concerns.

Virginia General Assembly Delegate Scott Lingamfelter (31st District), a prostate cancer survivor himself, also spoke to the audience and explained how his own experience convinced him to call for greater attention to this dread disease during a recent General Assembly session in Richmond - see article below.

A DVD video of Snuffy's lecture is available for \$20.00. Make checks payable to Dr. Richard E. Gillespie and sent to 2085 Steeple Place, Lake Ridge, VA 22192-2242.

Delegate speaks to General Assembly

Your VPCC volunteers spend considerable effort to spread the word to our state legislators concerning the need to fight prostate cancer. What a pleasant surprise when early this year Delegate Scott Lingamfelter (31st District) rose to make a "Point of Personal Privilege" and spoke to the Assembly about his diagnosis of, and treatment for, prostate cancer. Delegate Lingamfelter urged his fellow male legislators to get a PSA test. He commented that his message was also to women because they often encourage men to go to the doctor. Thank you, Delegate Lingamfelter!!

Comments on this Newsletter or suggestions for future issues? E-mail Jim Kearns, Editor, at
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Past issues available at: vapcacoalition.org

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Help VPCC!!
Please help continue to fight prostate cancer. Go to www.vapcccoalition.org and click 'Donate.'
We acknowledge all donations.

Upcoming Events

- 2011 Prostate Cancer Pony Express rides Sept 18th, 2011, Alexandria, Virginia, Motorcycle ride to the capital. Register <http://bit.ly/ProstateCancerPonyExpress2011>
- Zero's Summit, Washington DC, Sept 20/21. On September 22, meet with their Congressman and Senators. Register <https://zerocancer.org/get-involved/summit/register>
- 7th Annual African American Prostate Cancer Disparity Summit, Sept 22nd and 23rd, 2011, United States Capitol and Washington Convention Center. More info: <http://prostatehealthed.org/page.php?id=104>

VPCC Training Sessions

VPCC plans to hold 'training sessions' with leaders of the various prostate cancer support groups throughout Virginia. During these sessions, attendees will discuss how VPCC can best help support groups, how support groups can better work together, and brainstorm meeting the needs to their respective memberships. We will be contact supporting support group leaders in the coming months for suggestions as to how to best make the sessions most helpful and to arrange for convenient dates and locations.

Volunteers Support Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program (CDMRP)



Starting in 1992, Congress has appropriated funds for cancer research to the Department of Defense due to its extensive medical capabilities. The CDMRP efforts aim toward high-risk, innovative research, seeking new ways of attacking cancer. VPCC members support the program in a number of ways, from participating in reviewing proposed research proposals to educating members of Congress on the importance of this funding. In March of this year, CDMRP invited a number of VPCC members and others to attend its "Innovative Minds in Prostate Cancer Today Meeting" in Orlando, FL. The attendees gathered for three days, intensive learning, discussions, collaboration, and planning in meeting the challenges of eliminating death and suffering from prostate cancer. Pictured on the left are those Virginians, including VPCC board members, who attended the meeting. Virginia was well represented!

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